

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact
August 24, 2012

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon
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Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2012 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1(July 26, 2012)

Stock Status

- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1-23 totals 20,163 adults, including 19,119 bright stock and 1,044 tule stock. Adult Chinook passage is typically 50% complete by September 7.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam between July 1 and August 23 totals 143,177 fish. The majority of fish are Group A stock, as the Group B component is later-timed with passage beginning in mid-late August. Total passage is typically 50% complete by August 13.
- TAC will begin weekly reviews of Chinook and steelhead stock status on August 27.

Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The preseason catch expectation for early fall fisheries was 25,300 adult Chinook, with LRH and URB stocks representing 18% and 46% of the catch respectively. A total of 1,200 white sturgeon were allocated to the August portion of the fall fishing season.

2012 Preseason Catch <u>Expectation</u> of Adult Fall Chinook in Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries during the Early Fall (August) Season				
Date	Total	LRH	URB	BPH
Aug 4-5	2,300	1,200	600	300
Aug 12-25	12,100	1,800	5,800	3,500
Aug 26-31	10,900	1,700	5,200	3,000
Early Fall	25,300	4,700	11,600	6,800

- Preseason modeling for the Early Fall season included one fishing period in early August and seven in late August. At the July 26 hearing, the Compact adopted seven periods scheduled during August 5-24, and set a hearing for today to consider any additional period(s).

- Catch for the August 5-6 opener was less than the 2,300 fish expected; however, coded-wire-tag (CWT) data shows the LRH stock represented 63% of the catch compared to the expected 53%.

2012 Non-Indian Commercial Early Fall Harvest Data							
Date	Hours	Zones	Del.	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon	
August 5-6	9	1-5	127	1,306	0	592	
August 12-13	9	4-5	35	355	1	16	
August 14-15	9	4-5	35	506	0	29	
August 16-17	9	4-5	48	936	2	24	
August 19-20	9	4-5	75	761	15	47	
August 21-22	9	4-5	73	2,286	23	40	
August 23-24 (proj)	9	4-5	75	3,200	25	45	
Sum				9,350	66	793	

- Catch for the Late August fishing periods to date has gradually increased as expected. CWT data is complete for the Aug 12-20 fishing periods, but CWT data is not yet available for the

remaining two periods. Based on the CWT data in hand, the proportion of LRH in the catch is higher than preseason projections (25% observed compared to 15% expected).

- Based on actual and projected catch, an estimated 9,100 Chinook remain available for harvest from the Chinook set aside for August commercial fisheries. The preliminary estimate of a higher proportion of LRH in the catch reduces the total number of Chinook available for harvest. Pre-season modeling set aside 17,500 Chinook for Sept/Oct Zone 4-5 fisheries.

<i>Recommendation: 2012 Non-Indian Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season	9 PM Sunday August 26 to 6 AM Monday August 27	(9 hours)
	9 PM Tuesday August 28 to 6 AM Wednesday August 29	(9 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.	
Sanctuaries:	Washougal, and Sandy Rivers	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9" minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple Net Rule NOT in place. Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery are prohibited to be onboard the vessel. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of five white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only. Sales of white sturgeon from fall Select Area fisheries is prohibited.	
Additional Rules:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.	

- Catch estimates include 8,000 - 12,000 Chinook and 100-200 sturgeon.
- Requests have been made to conduct these last two periods on Monday and Wednesday night to offset the fishing periods in Willapa Bay (conducted on Sunday and Tuesday) and also to relieve any congestion at the boat ramps on Sunday evenings, however; the majority of the Commercial Advisor Group members and others have requested that we stay with the preseason plan of Sunday and Tuesday night openers. This also allows an opportunity to add a Thursday night fishery if possible.
- Consistent with preseason planning, late fall commercial mainstem fisheries are scheduled to begin around September 16.

Future Meetings

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Joint State hearing for 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 28 to review catch estimates, stock composition and ocean harvest information relative to the Buoy 10 fishery.
- A Compact hearing is scheduled via teleconference for 2:00 p.m. Thursday September 6 to review treaty Indian fisheries.